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# ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

## Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

## Report of the Secretary-General

## Addendum

## Reply received from the Government of Venezuela

[10 December 1999]
[Original: Spanish]

In accordance with the guidelines laid down by Venezuela on this subject, the Government of Venezuela reaffirms its objections to any measure that might weaken the observance of human rights, in flagrant violation of international treaties on the subject, as in the case of the unilateral coercive measures that some of the Great Powers are trying to apply with extraterritorial effects, using them as a means to apply political pressure and undermining the principle of self-determination of peoples laid down in the Charter of the United Nations.

This position is fully endorsed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the grounds that under the principles and rules of international law there is no legal basis for unilateral surveillance efforts, which are also far-removed from the core values underlying civilized international relations, such as self-determination, non-intervention and freedom in its broadest sense.

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